

Message Text

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SUBJ: RECTOR OF BELGRADE UNIVERISTY DEFENDS UNIVERSITY AUTONOMY

REF: BELGRADE 3262, 3953

1. SPEAKING SEPT 13 AT A BELGRADE UNIVERSITY SEMINAR FOR FOREIGN SOCIAL SCIENTISTS, UNIVERSITY RECTOR DR. JOVAN GLIGORIJEVIC STATED THAT THE OUTCOME OF THE RECENT AFFAIR OF THE "BELGRADE EIGHT" PROVED THE AUTONOMY OF THE UNIVERSITY HAS BEEN MAINTAINED.

2. A UNIVERSITY COMMITTEE CLEARED THE EIGHT OF CHARGES BROUGHT AGAINST THEM, THE RECTOR SAID IN RESPONSE TO PARTICIPANT'S QUESTION. A SPECIAL COMMITTEE ANALYZED THEIR WORK AND FOUND NO EVIDENCE OF ORGANIZED DISRUPTIVE POLITICAL OPINION THAT WOULD DISQUALIFY THEM TO TEACH. UNIVERSITY HELD DIALOGUE ON THEIR "EDUCATIONAL RELEVANCY" HE SAID, AND FOUND THEM TO BE WITHIN PERMISSIBLE BOUNDS.

3. FREEDOM TO HOLD IDEAS DOES NO IMPLY FREEDOM TO DISSEMINATE THOSE IDEAS IN DISRUPTIVE MANNER, GLIGORIJEVIC CAUTIONED IN CRITICIZING

"ABUSE OF THE IDEA OF FREEDOM IN MODERN SOCIALISM" IMPLICIT IN FOREIGN MEDIA COVERAGE OF AFFAIR. BUT IN THIS CASE, HE CONTINUED, THERE WAS CERTAINLY NO ORGANIZED OPPOSITION ON PART OF PROFESSORS. THERE WAS NO PLOT AS HAD BEEN ALLEGED IN SOME LCY CRITICISM OF THE EIGHT.

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4. COMMENTING ON OUTSIDE PRESSURE TO REMOVE PROFESSORS HE SAID "OUR IDEA OF THE UNIVERISTY DOES NO ALLOW SOMEONE OUTSIDE THE UNIVERSITY TO REMOVE A PROFESSOR." THIS IS A MATTER FOR THE UNIVERISTY COUNCIL TO DECIDE.

5. IF PROFESSORS HAD BEEN REMOVED WITHOUT PROOF, THE MEDIA WOULD HAVE BEEN CORRECT IN SAYING THAT POSITION OF THE UNIVERSITY HAD BEEN UNDERMINED, HE DECLARED. BUT IN THIS CASE "THE INDEPENDENCE AND AUTONOMY OF THE UNIVERSITY AS AN ESSENTIAL ELEMENT IN SOCIALIST SOCIETY" WAS MAINTAINED.

6. COMMENT: ACADEMIC NATURE OF SEMINAR, AT WHICH NO REPORTERS WERE PRESENT, EVIDENTLY PERMITTED GLIGORIJEVIC TO BE MORE DIRECT THAN WOULD OTHERWISE BE POSSIBLE. HE MADE IT CLEAR TO HIS AUDIENCE THAT UNIVERISYT ITSELF WAS ONLY BODY QUALIFIED TO PASS OH FITNESS OF ITS MEMBERS. HE WAS JUST AS CLEAR IN NOTING THAT THERE WERE LIMITS TO DISSENT AND THAT UNIVERISTY WAS READY TO TAKE DISCIPLINARY ACTION WHERE SUCH ACTION WAS WARRANTED.
TOON

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